THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) M/s. Mahyco Seeds Ltd. has supplied Bt. Cotton hybrid seeds in Andhra Pradesh. Certain incidences are reported where the MECH-12 Bt. and MECH-184 Bt. have not performed well in six districts of Andhra Pradesh resulting in substantial crop loss.

(b) M/s. Mahyco Seeds Limited have supplied 93374 packets of 450 gms. of MECH-12 Bt., 6420 packets of MECH-184 Bt. and 1015 packets of MECH-162 Bt., covering an area of 40324 hectares, during Kharif, 2004 in cotton growing districts of Andhra Pradesh. Complaints are received regarding poor performance of MECH-12 Bt. and MECH-184 Bt. from the districts of Warangal, Khamman, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Krishna and Guntur. However, there are no reports of supply of inferior quality of Bt. cotton seeds from other cotton growing States.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have constituted team for assessing the crop loss.

(d) No action has been taken so far.

Shortage of fodder for milch cattle

†847. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of green and dry fodder for milch cattle available in the country;

(b) if so, the average annual production of green and dry fodder in the country;

(c) the number of milch cattle for which this fodder production is sufficient in view of requirements for a healthy cattle;

(d) whether it is a fact that this quantity of fodder is insufficient owing to the excessive number of milch cattle in the country; and

(e) if so, the additional quantity of fodder required in the country and what is the expected number of milch cattle in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is an overall shortage of fodder in the country as per the projected estimates by the Working Group of Animal Husbandry for 10th Plan. The total availability of fodder is 833 million tonnes consisting of 390 million tonnes green fodder and 443 million tonnes dry fodder.

(c) to (e) The total milch cattle (cow and buffalo) are about 103787 (000 nos.) as per the projection of 2002-03. There is an overall shortage of fodder in the country as mentioned above. The total required quantity of fodder is about 1594 million tonnes consisting of 1025 million tonnes green fodder and 569 million tonnes dry fodder.

Improving cattle fairs

848. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand to develop and modernise the traditional weekly cattle fairs all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds sanctioned for this purpose during 2003-04;

(d) the funds utilised, so far; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve such fairs, in order to assist farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.